

mklitfest.org

MK  
LIT FEST

A fabulous festival of books, words, writers and ideas

Central Library and Waterstones  
Milton Keynes

3-6 April  
2024

# MK Lit Fest

Alex Falase-Koya Caroline Davies Catherine Menon David Wilson  
Edward Hogan Emma Claire Sweeney Francis Spufford Ghusoun  
Rahhal Irenosen Okojie J.J. Arcanjo Julia Bell Kelechi Okafor Leigh  
Russell Michaela Dias-Hayes Naomi Wood Natalie Bennett Nicolas  
Hamilton Paul Rainey Polly Toynbee Roy Nevitt Russell Jones

Proudly working with

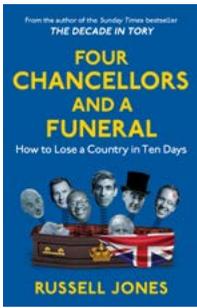


Plus, sponsored by the Open University as part of our Online Programme,  
The Long and the Short of It: Flash Fiction, Short Stories, Novellas and Novels.

Four events with contemporary writers: Electra Rhodes,  
Rattawut Lapcharoensap, Emily Bullock and Amit Chaudhuri

Online every Monday in March at 7.30pm





## RUSSELL JONES: FOUR CHANCELLORS AND A FUNERAL

7-8PM • WATERSTONES CMK • £10/£7

**Russell Jones** returns to Lit Fest with *Four Chancellors and a Funeral*, the sequel nobody wants... Following the *Sunday Times* bestseller, *The Decade in Tory*, this darkly comical history of the Tory government explores January 2021 to the end of 2022: after ten years of the Tories, could it get any worse? Spoiler – it does.

WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL

## GHSOUSN RAHHAL AND CAROLINE DAVIES: CONNECTING THREADS

6:30-7:30PM • CMK LIBRARY • £FREE

**Ghusoun Rahhal** and **Caroline Davies** read their literary responses to a Milton Keynes Community Foundation-funded project which brought together the Westbury Fabric and Fibre Guild with the Middle Eastern Cultural Group to share stories and stitching traditions from their diverse heritage.



THURSDAY 4 APRIL

## WORKSHOPS

FRIDAY 5 APRIL

COMMUNITY LEARNING MK, CMK LIBRARY • £20 PER WORKSHOP (PLACES LIMITED)



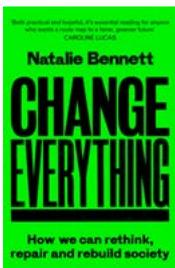
### STRUCTURING LIFE: MEMOIR WORKSHOP WITH JULIA BELL 1-3PM

All non-fiction or memoir needs a shape or organising principle to contain its ideas. But how do we know which form works best – particularly for the story we're telling? As well as practical advice, this workshop with writer and tutor **Julia Bell** will help you think about techniques for structuring and developing your work.

### FINDING THE PLOT: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP WITH LEIGH RUSSELL

3:30-5:30PM

Are you looking for inspiration in your writing? We're delighted to bring you bestselling author and popular tutor **Leigh Russell** with Top Tips for writing successful fiction, and a focus on techniques for developing a plot that draws your readers in and keeps them turning the pages!



## NATALIE BENNETT: CHANGE EVERYTHING

FRIDAY 5 APRIL

7:30-8:30PM • WATERSTONES CMK • £10/£7

Green Party peer **Natalie Bennett** is on a mission to transform the way we think about our world. The status quo is profoundly unstable; change is inevitable. Now is the time to get together to build a far healthier and more balanced world: it is time to *Change Everything*.



## FRANCIS SPUFFORD: CAHOKIA JAZZ

FRIDAY 5 APRIL

6-7PM • WATERSTONES CMK • £10/£7

In a city that never was, in an America that never was, one snowy night, two detectives find a body on the roof of a skyscraper... Multiple-award-winning author **Francis Spufford** discusses his richly pleasure-giving, epically scaled tale set in the golden age of wicked entertainments.

## TALES FROM THE CITY: MINK2024 PRIZEWINNERS CEREMONY AND ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH

SATURDAY 6 APRIL

10-10:30AM • CMK LIBRARY • £FREE

Join us to celebrate the winners of our Writing Competition - Tales from the City - and launch the fourth issue of our *MinK* anthologies of the best local writing, with **Roy Nevitt**, the 'cultural godfather' of Milton Keynes.



## THINKING AND WRITING SHORT AND LONG

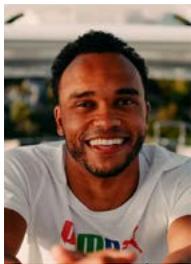
11AM-12PM • CMK LIBRARY • £10/£7

Our OU-sponsored discussion series on fictional forms from flash fiction to the doorstep novel culminates in an in-person panel event. **Emma Claire Sweeney** speaks with **Edward Hogan**, **Catherine Menon**, **Irenosen Okojie** and **Naomi Wood** - authors well known for their novels, novellas, short stories and flash fiction alike.

## PAUL RAINEY: WHY DON'T YOU LOVE ME?

12:30-1:30PM • CMK LIBRARY • £10/£7

**Paul Rainey's** graphic novels channel the challenges and chaos of life into an absorbing narrative filled with dark humour. Neil Gaiman called his acclaimed *Why Don't You Love Me?* 'a masterwork'. Join Paul to find out what makes a graphic novel - and novelist - tick.



## NICOLAS HAMILTON: NOW THAT I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION

2-3PM • CMK LIBRARY • £10/£7

Trailblazing racing driver **Nicolas Hamilton's** journey has taken him from being written off due to his cerebral palsy to reaching the top level of British motor sport. He shares the often surprising life lessons he's learned - and how, with self-discipline and self-compassion, you can defy the limitations imposed upon you.

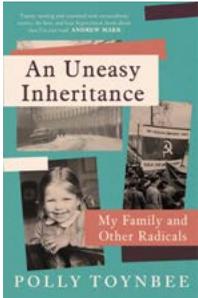
## DAVID WILSON: LIVING WITH MURDERERS

3.30-4.30PM • CMK LIBRARY • £10/£7

Award-winning criminologist **Professor David Wilson** explores how so many victims are most in danger in the place they feel safest. Over forty years, he has met all sorts of killers, and applies his unparalleled knowledge of murder and human nature to attempt to make sense of the senseless.



SATURDAY 6 APRIL



## POLLY TOYNBEE: AN UNEASY INHERITANCE

7-8PM • WATERSTONES CMK • £10/£7

**Polly Toynbee**, one of our most respected, prolific and razor-sharp voices, shares a colourful, entertaining examination of her own family – which contains everyone from Jessica Mitford to Bertrand Russell, and features Castle Howard as a backdrop – and explores mobility and privilege, asking for a truly honest conversation about class in Britain.

CHILDREN'S LIT FEST

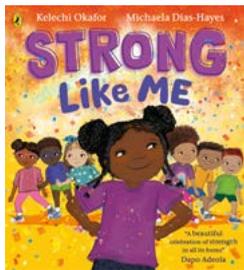
SATURDAY 6 APRIL

CMK CHILDREN'S LIBRARY • £5 PER EVENT (PLUS £3 PER ACCOMPANYING ADULT)

### ALEX FALASE-KOYA: STEP UP! IT'S TIME TO BECOME A HERO! (AGE 5+)

12:30-1:30PM

Join **Alex Falase-Koya** for a super-powered, super-fun introduction to Marv and his amazing adventures! Hear how Alex created the kindest superhero in town, and all about his own favourite superheroes and favourite books growing up – before helping him to design a brand new supersuit for your own superhero.



### KELECHI OKAFOR & MICHAELA DIAS-HAYES: STRONG LIKE ME (AGE 3+)

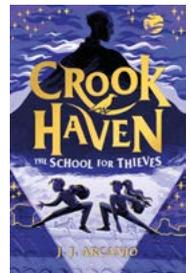
2-3PM

Join writer and social commentator **Kelechi Okafor** and Kate Greenaway-nominated illustrator **Michaela Dias-Hayes** for an inspirational and engaging event based on their heartwarming debut picture book *Strong Like Me*. An uplifting story about finding your own ways to be strong, discovering your power and championing yourself.

### J.J. ARCANJO: CROOKHAVEN (AGE 8+)

3:30-4:30PM

Meet **J.J. Arcanjo** and discover *Crookhaven*, the mysterious school for altruistic crooks. A rollicking mix of high adventure, daring – and friendship – this is 'criminally good' entertainment, but... can you ever *really* trust a thief?



 A part of the  
Arts Gateway MK  
family.

Visit our website at [WWW.MKLITFEST.ORG](http://WWW.MKLITFEST.ORG) for tickets and more information.  
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